

That which is claimed is:

1. An isolated mammalian G protein-coupled corticotropin-releasing factor (CRF) receptor protein,
wherein said protein is encoded by DNA that hybridizes under suitable stringency to the complement of polynucleotide sequences set forth in SEQ ID NO:5, SEQ ID NO:7, SEQ ID NO:9 or SEQ ID NO:14, so as to allow identification of sequences having at least 50% nucleic acid identity with respect to the reference polynucleotide sequences;
wherein said receptor protein binds CRF; and
wherein said protein is at least about 70% pure (by weight of total proteins).
2. The isolated protein according to claim 1 having sufficient binding affinity for CRF such that concentrations of less than or equal to 10 nanomolar CRF occupy greater than or equal to 50% of the binding sites of said receptor protein.
3. The isolated protein according to claim 1, wherein said protein is encoded by DNA having at least 60% nucleic acid identity with respect to the reference polynucleotide sequences.
4. The isolated protein according to claim 1, wherein said protein is encoded by DNA having at least 70% nucleic acid identity with respect to the reference polynucleotide sequences.
5. The isolated protein according to claim 1, wherein said protein is encoded by DNA having at least 80% nucleic acid identity with respect to the reference polynucleotide sequences.
6. The isolated protein according to claim 1, wherein said protein is encoded by DNA having at least 90% nucleic acid identity with respect to the reference polynucleotide sequences.
7. The isolated protein according to claim 1 having the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:6, SEQ ID NO:8, SEQ ID NO:10 or SEQ ID NO:15.

8. The isolated protein according to claim 1 having a radioactive labelling element attached thereto.
9. The isolated protein according to claim 1, wherein said isolated protein is a recombinant protein.
10. A composition comprising an isolated protein according to claim 1.
11. An immunogenic fragment of an isolated mammalian G protein-coupled corticotropin-releasing factor (CRF) receptor protein;
wherein said protein is encoded by DNA that hybridizes under suitable stringency to the complement of polynucleotide sequences set forth in SEQ ID NO:5, SEQ ID NO:7, SEQ ID NO:9 or SEQ ID NO:14, so as to allow identification of sequences having at least 50% nucleic acid identity with respect to the reference polynucleotide sequences;
wherein said receptor protein binds CRF; and
wherein said protein is at least about 70% pure (by weight of total proteins).
12. An antibody generated against a polypeptide according to claim 11.
13. A substantially pure polypeptide comprising at least 15 contiguous amino acids of the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:6, SEQ ID NO:8, SEQ ID NO:10 or SEQ ID NO:15;
wherein said polypeptide is at least about 70% pure (by weight of total proteins).
14. The polypeptide according to claim 13, wherein a residue selected from the group consisting of tyrosine, cysteine, lysine, glutamic acid and aspartic acid has been attached by a peptide bond to the carboxyl terminus of said polypeptide.
15. An isolated mammalian G protein-coupled corticotropin-releasing factor (CRF) receptor protein,
wherein said protein is encoded by DNA that hybridizes to the complement of polynucleotide sequences set forth in SEQ ID NO:5, SEQ ID NO:7, SEQ ID NO:9 or SEQ ID NO:14, under hybridization conditions comprising a temperature of about 42 °C, a formamide concentration of about 20% and a salt concentration of about 0.6 M NaCl, followed by wash conditions comprising a temperature of about 42-50 °C and a salt

concentration of about 0.3 M NaCl;

wherein said receptor protein binds CRF; and

wherein said protein is at least about 70% pure (by weight of total proteins).

16. The isolated protein according to claim 15, wherein said isolated protein is a recombinant protein.

17. An isolated mammalian G protein-coupled corticotropin-releasing factor (CRF) receptor protein,

wherein said protein is encoded by DNA that hybridizes to the complement of polynucleotide sequences set forth in SEQ ID NO:5, SEQ ID NO:7, SEQ ID NO:9 or SEQ ID NO:14, under hybridization conditions comprising a temperature of about 42 °C, a formamide concentration of about 50%, and a salt concentration of about 5x SSPE, followed by wash conditions comprising a temperature of about 65 °C and a salt concentration of about 0.2x SSPE;

wherein said receptor protein binds CRF; and

wherein said protein is at least about 70% pure (by weight of total proteins).

18. The isolated protein according to claim 17, wherein said isolated protein is a recombinant protein.

19. A diagnostic kit for assaying for the presence in biological fluids of CRF-R protein, CRF-R protein analogs, and/or CRF-R fragments, said kit comprising:

(a) an isolated mammalian G protein-coupled corticotropin-releasing factor (CRF) receptor protein according to claim 1, and/or

(b) one or more antibodies generated against said protein or immunologic fragment thereof.